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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Alabama Epicenter of National Synthetic Drug Crackdown

### *Press release*

Decatur, AL, May 7, 2014 — District Attorney Scott Anderson announced earlier today that Alabama will play a prominent role in *Project Synergy* -- the largest-ever coordinated law enforcement initiative against designer drugs, targeting manufacturers, distributors and retailers of over 250 synthetic drugs being abused every day in the United States and globally.

The first phase of Synergy began last summer with the seizure of over 10,000 packages of designer drugs and \$53 million in cash and assets being seized in 25 states. Over 230 arrests were also made in the operation. Anderson said that the second phase of the operation began today.

This is a joint operation that will involve the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency and the Alabama Alcohol Beverage Control Board. It is expected that approximately 20-25 search warrants and 20 arrest warrants will be executed across the State of Alabama.

Anderson explained that Alabama will be the largest single statewide operation in this second phase of *Project Synergy*. This is because legislation that was sponsored by Senator Arthur Orr and Representative Allen Farley last session (Act 2014-184) and was supported by the Alabama Office of Prosecution Services has cast Alabama in the role of the nation's toughest anti-synthetic drug jurisdiction.

Alabama's participation in this nationwide effort to crack down on synthetic drugs, including so-called bath salts, spice and Molly is expected to reach homes, warehouses and smoke shops in Alabama that

are being used to promote these drugs which first gained widespread popularity years ago. Typically, most of these products are manufactured in China and trafficked through Eastern European and Middle Eastern Countries and then into the United States, often by groups with links to international organized crime.

District Attorney Anderson says that he is proud of the State of Alabama for taking the lead in this important fight to protect our nation's youth and assures the citizens of Morgan County that his office intends to lend its full cooperation to this initiative.